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### **Legislature votes to create additional agriculture renaissance zones**

**LANSING** – A House committee passed pro-jobs legislation Tuesday that would create 10 additional agriculture processing renaissance zones in Michigan, said bill sponsor Sen. Ron Jelinek.

Senate Bill 900 also will designate the criteria to be used for awarding a zone. These awards will be geared toward agricultural processing facilities. These facilities perform such operations as packaging, sorting and grading livestock or livestock products, agricultural commodities or plants into goods used for consumption.

“Agriculture is a staple of Michigan’s economy and we need to help our farmers and other agricultural companies stay competitive,” said Jelinek, R-Three Oaks. “Creating additional renaissance zones around the state will open the door for facilities to expand their processing operations.”

The following considerations must be used when awarding a zone:

- Economic impact on local suppliers who provide raw materials, goods and services to the facility;
- Creation of jobs relative to the employment base of the community;
- Viability of the project; and
- Economic impact on the community.

SB 900 was passed out of the House Agriculture Committee chaired by Rep. Neal Nitz, R-Baroda. The bill now goes to the full House for consideration.

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